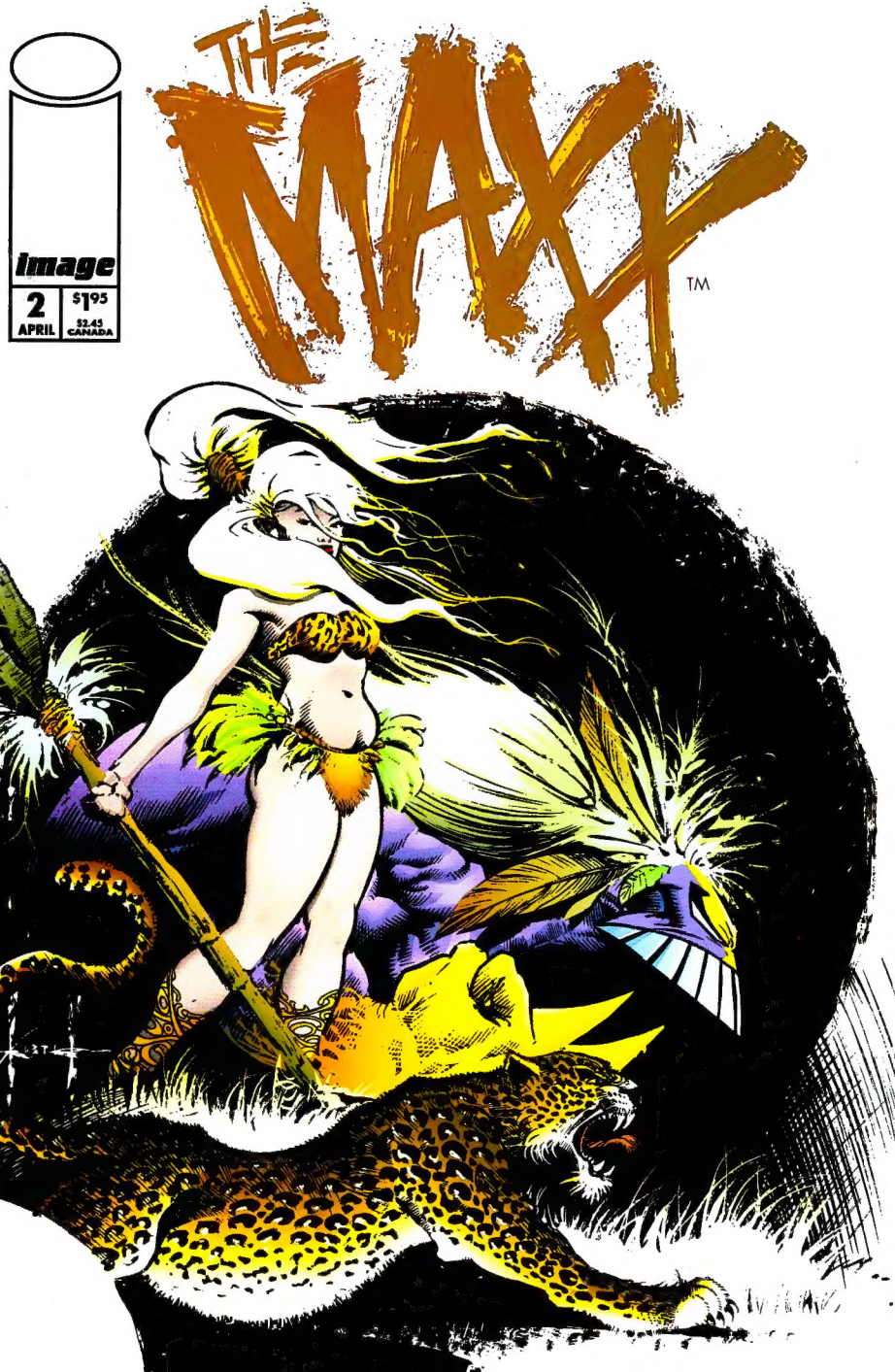
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THE MAXX™

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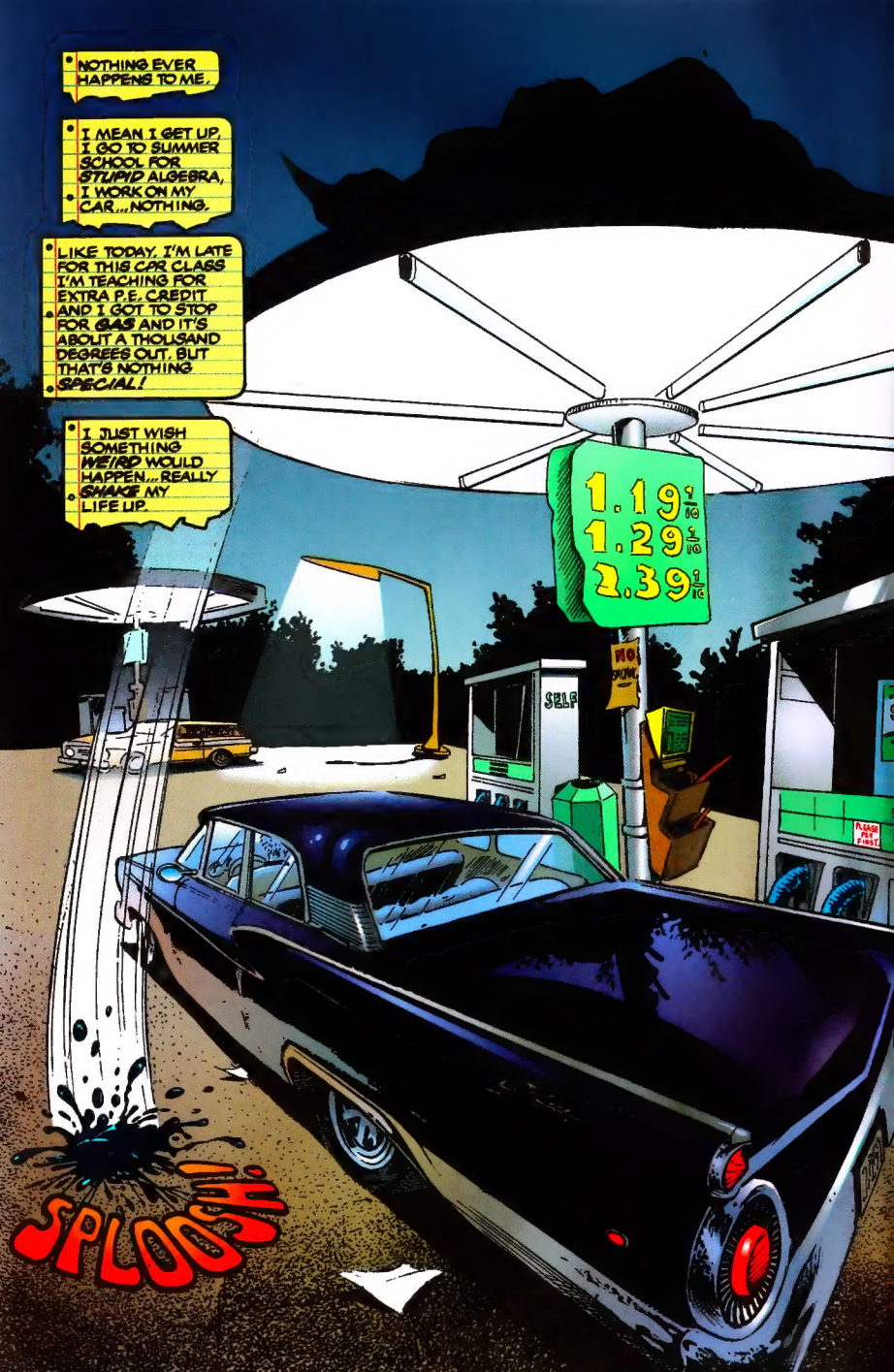
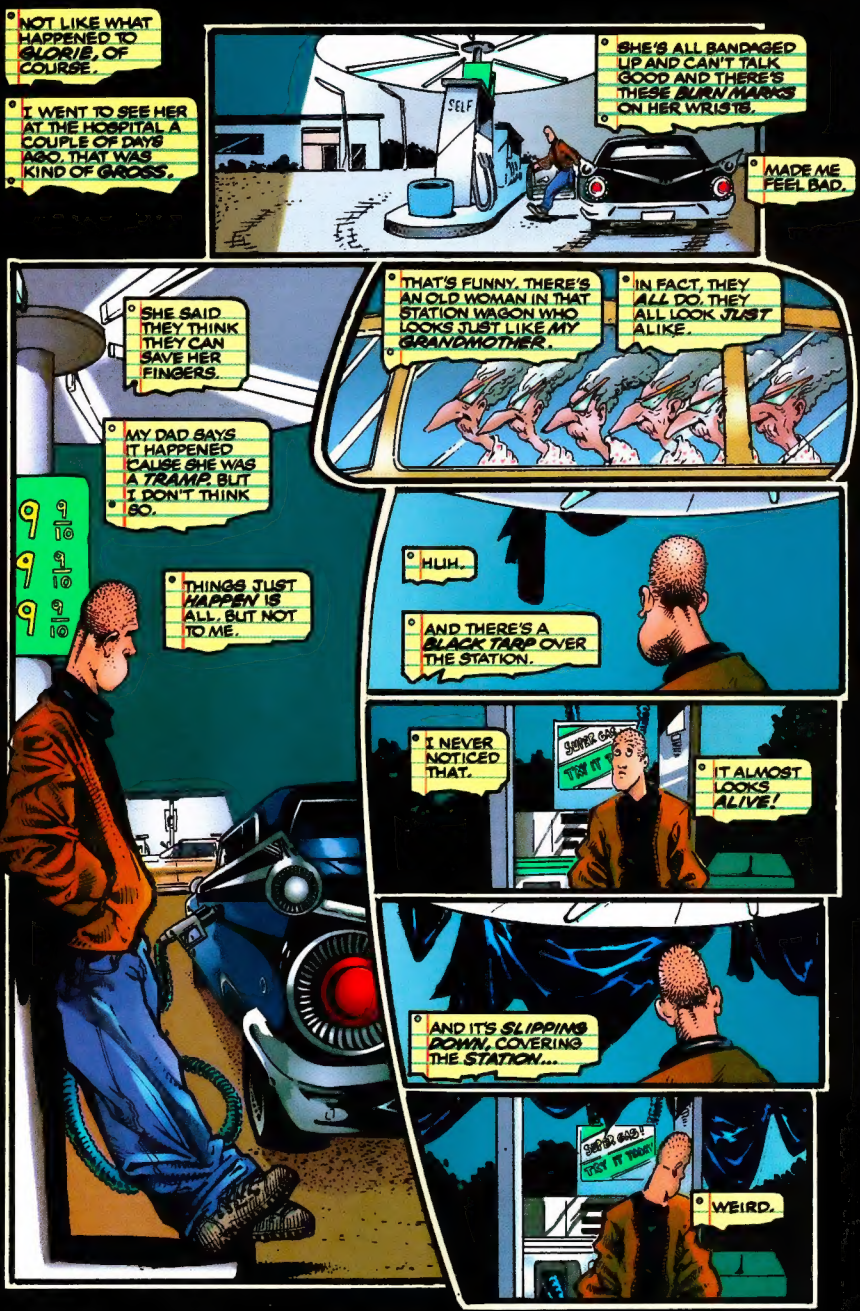
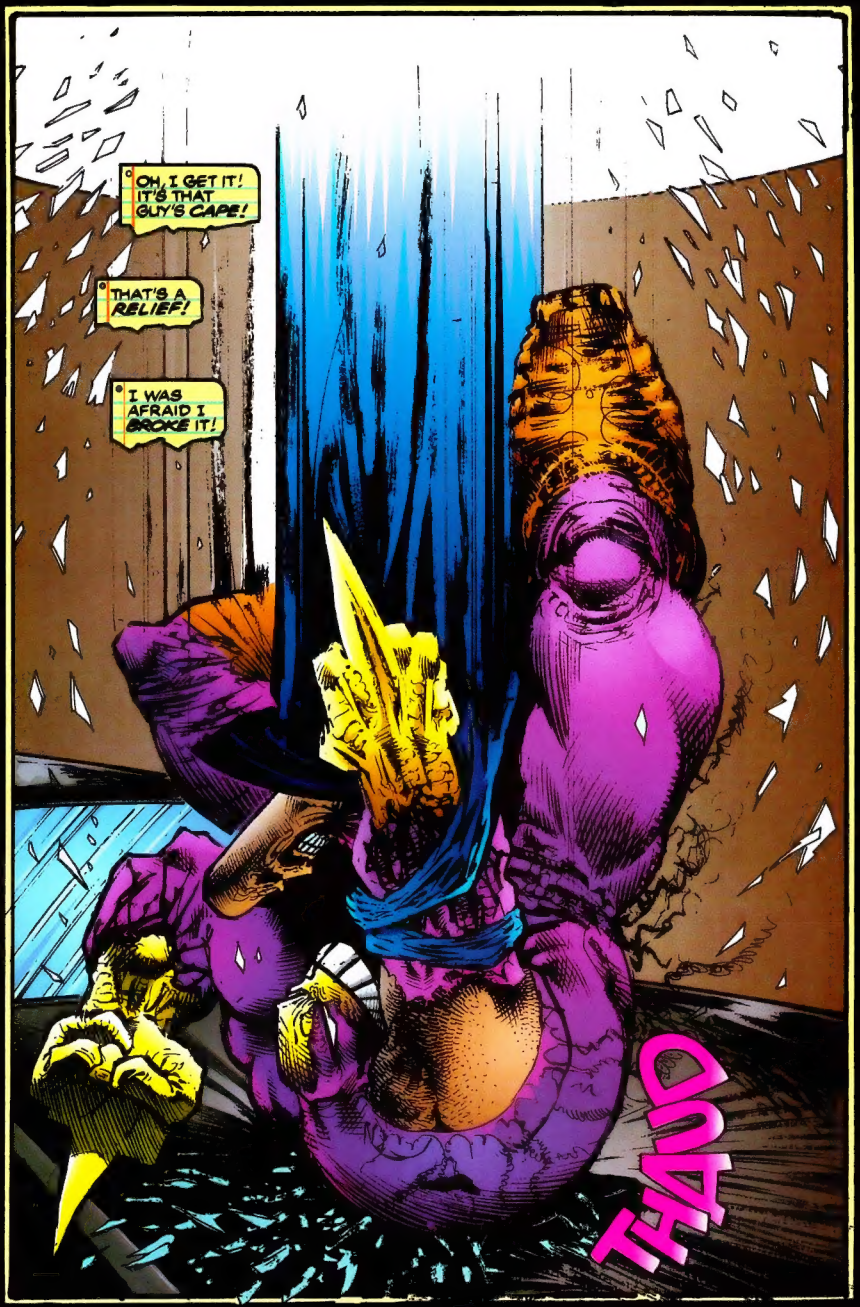
THREE WHOLE WEEKS OF DIETING... COTTAGE CHEESE AND FRUIT PLATES AND YOGURT...
...AND SHE'S GAINED FIVE POUNDS?
MAYBE THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE FRIDGE, SOMETHING UNFATTENING... SOMETHING NICE...
Oh... POOP!
SUGAR
MEEP!
MOO COW
LOW FAT MILK
MEEP
MEEP
MEEP
MEEP
MEEP
Snatchh!
MEEP
MEEP!


NOTHING EVER HAPPENS TO ME.
I MEAN I GET UP, I GO TO SUMMER SCHOOL FOR STUPID ALGEBRA, I WORK ON MY CAR... NOTHING.
LIKE TODAY. I'M LATE FOR THIS CAR CLASS I'M TEACHING FOR EXTRA P.E. CREDIT AND I GOT TO STOP FOR GAS AND IT'S ABOUT A THOUSAND DEGREES OUT. BUT THAT'S NOTHING SPECIAL!
I JUST WISH SOMETHING WEIRD WOULD HAPPEN... REALLY SHAKE MY LIFE UP.
1.19 9/10
1.29 9/10
1.39 9/10
SELF
SPLOOSH!


NOT LIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO GLORIE, OF COURSE.
I WENT TO SEE HER AT THE HOSPITAL A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO. THAT WAS KIND OF GROSS.
SELF
SHE'S ALL BANDAGED UP AND CAN'T TALK. GOOD AND THERE'S THESE BURN MARKS ON HER WRISTS.
MADE ME FEEL BAD.
SHE SAID THEY THINK THEY CAN SAVE HER FINGERS.
MY DAD SAYS IT HAPPENED 'CAUSE SHE WAS A TRAMP. BUT I DON'T THINK SO.
9 9/10
9 9/10
9 9/10
THINGS JUST HAPPEN IS ALL. BUT NOT TO ME.
THAT'S FUNNY. THERE'S AN OLD WOMAN IN THAT STATION WAGON WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE MY GRANDMOTHER.
IN FACT, THEY ALL DO. THEY ALL LOOK JUST ALIKE.
HUH.
AND THERE'S A BLACK TARP OVER THE STATION.
I NEVER NOTICED THAT.
IT ALMOST LOOKS ALIVE!
AND IT'S SLIPPING DOWN, COVERING THE STATION...
WEIRD.

MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF AUTOMATIC SUNSHADE.
BUT YOU CAN'T SEE TO PUMP GAS IN THERE.
WHAT IF THERE'S A SWITCH...?
IF I WAS TO FLIP ON THIS THING REALLY HARD...
FFOOSSH!
FFOOSSH!
FFOOSSH!


OH, I GET IT! IT'S THAT GUY'S CAPE!
THAT'S A RELIEF!
I WAS AFRAID I BROKE IT!
THUD

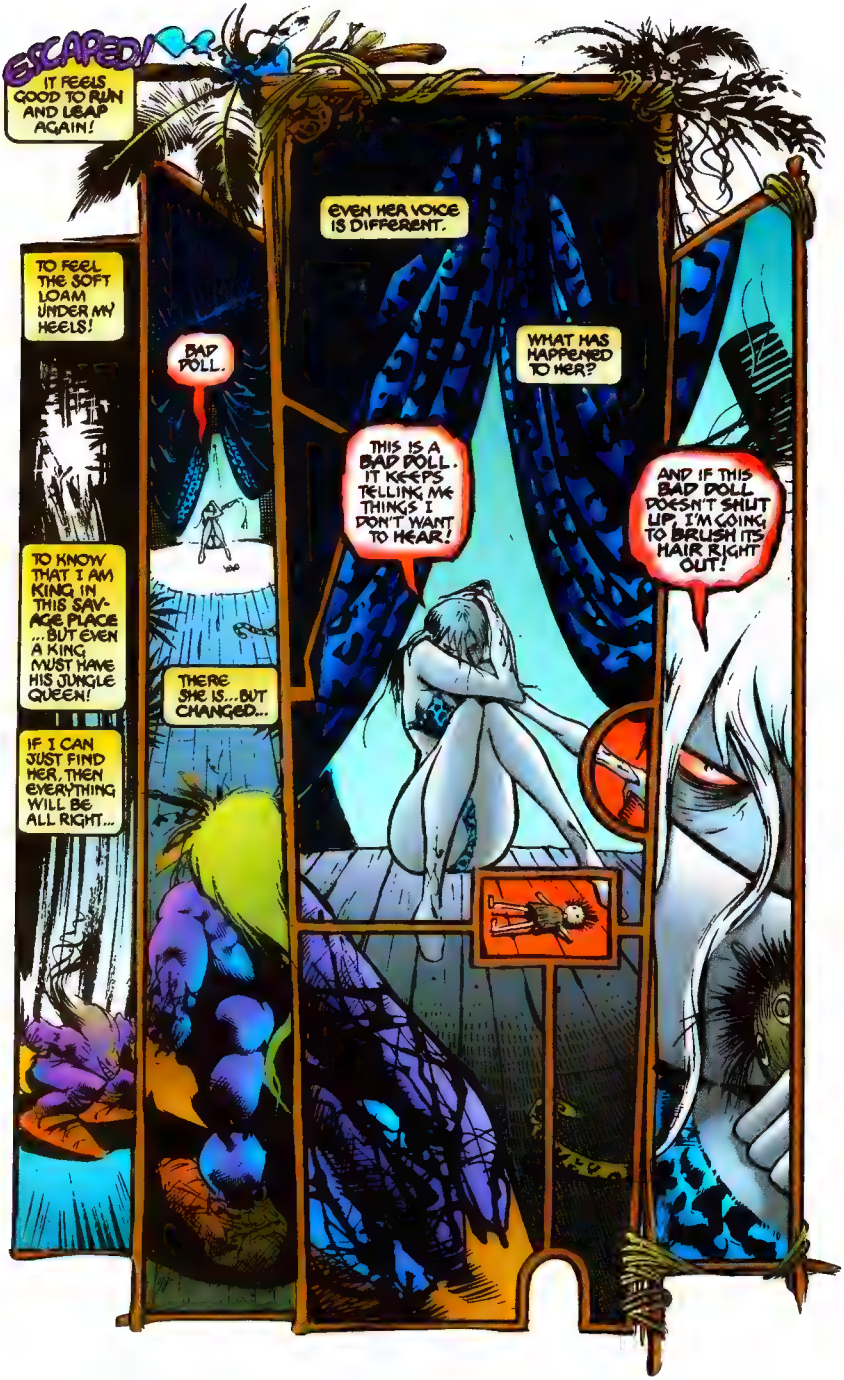
COURSE, NOW I GOT TWO BIG GUYS, FIGHTING, ON THE HOOD OF MY CAR.
GIVE IT UP, BRER LAPP!N! YOU...GASP...KNOW JULIE WINTERS IS THE ONE I WANT! SHE'S...WHEEZE... THE STRONG ONE...
THE ONE WHO PULLS ...HANT... YOUR STRINGS!
IT'S KIND OF NEAT, ACTUALLY.
AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
UHHH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHUM!

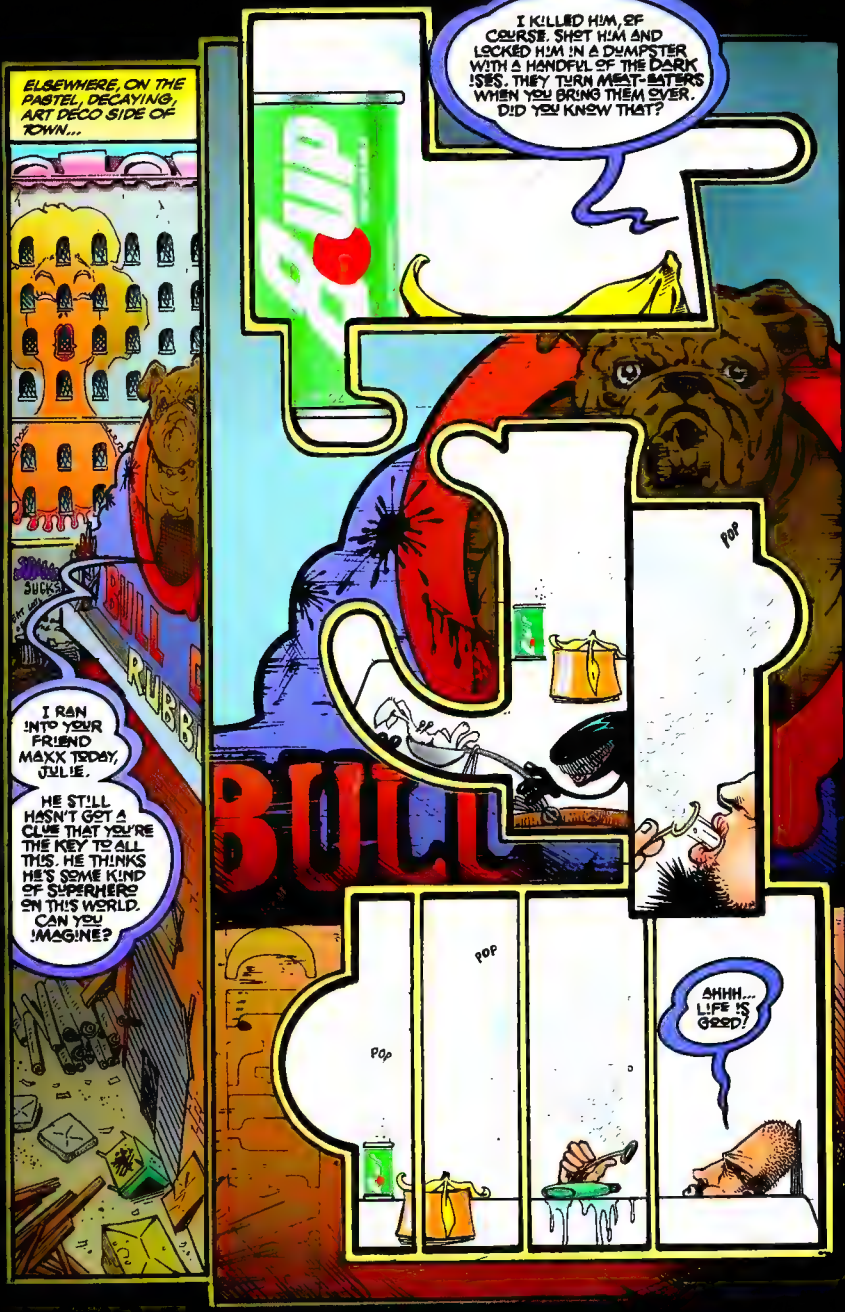
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER ANYTH'NG 'MPORTANT, DO YOU, BR'ER LAPP'N?
I'M MR. GONE!...A STUDENT OF THE MYST'C ARTS!
UNFORTUNATELY, AN UNTALENTED STUDENT, OR I WOULDN'T HAVE TO KEEP SHOOT'NG FOOLS LIKE YOU!
HEY! PUT THAT DOWN, OR I'LL—
KRAKKKKK!
KRATTCHHH!
I THOUGHT I SAW A WOMAN 'N THERE!
NOW SURRENDER, HOPP'NG-BOY, OR TH'S CHARM'NG YOUNG CH'PPIE 'S ADDED TO MY SCORE!

MY HOSTAGE. YOU K!LLED MY HOSTAGE!
CRUNCH
YOUK! LLEDMYH OSTAGEYOUK !LLEDMY HOST AGEYOUK!L LED
BAM
WHUMP!
NEVER DO THAT AGAIN!
OUCHIE.
UMM...DO YOU WANT ME TO CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE OR SOMETHING?
BROTHER, N0TH!NG'S EASY.

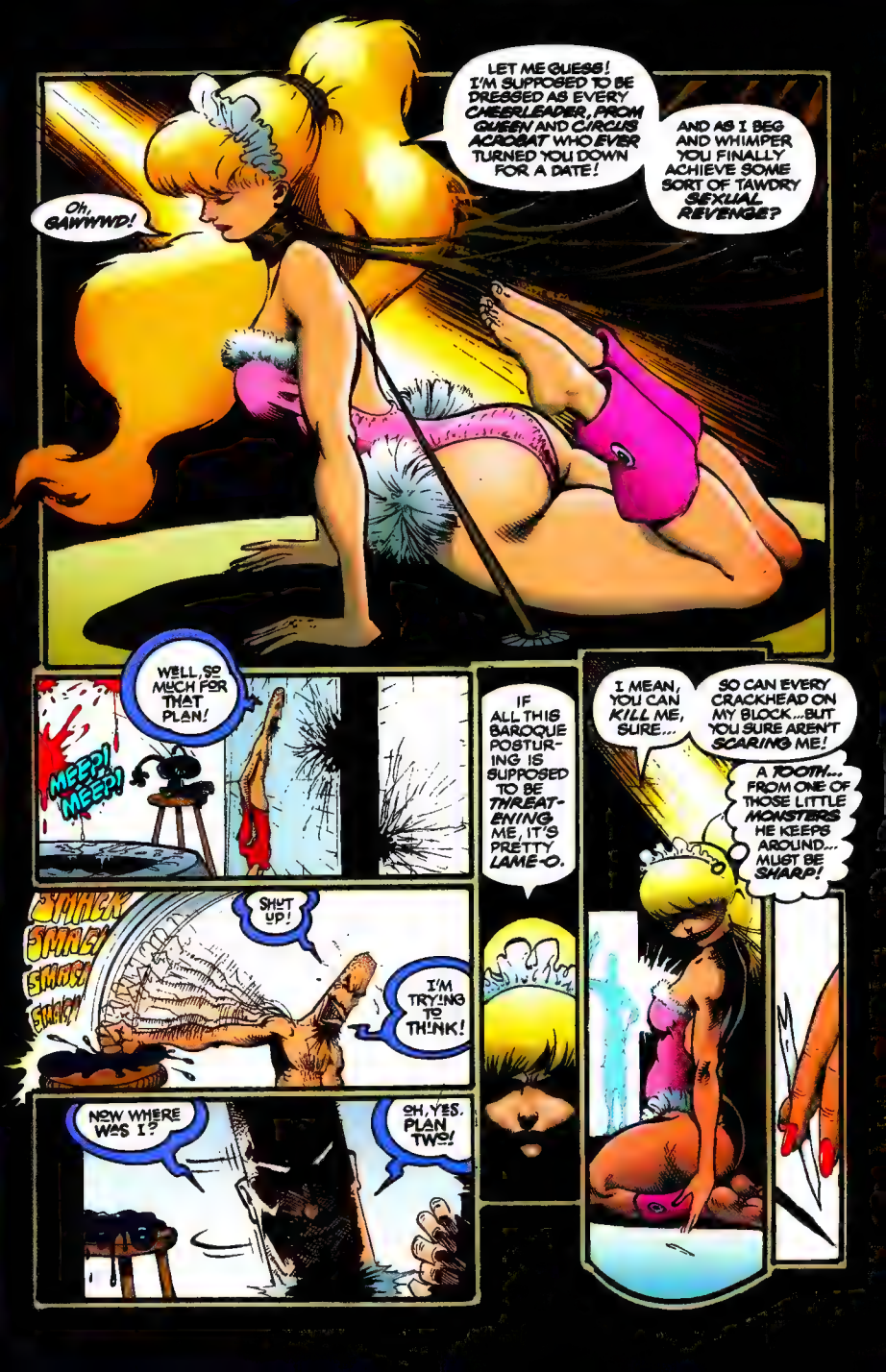
THAT WAS REALLY SMART, HOW YOU REALIZED THAT WAS MY CPR PRACTICE DUMMY... uh...
YOU DID REALIZE THAT WAS MY CPR PRACTICE DUMMY, RIGHT, MISTER?
RIGHT...?
A DUMMY?
UH, RIGHT.
YAAAAAA!
IT WAS THE LITTLE OLD LADIES. THEY MUST'VE JUMPED OUT OF THE STATION WAGON FROM BEFORE.
I WAS STARTING TO THINK IT WAS GETTING PRETTY HAZARDOUS AROUND HERE.
WELL, IT WAS NICE TO MEET YOU... I GOTTA BE GOING NOW...
HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING. BUT THEN HE WAS PRETTY BUSY.

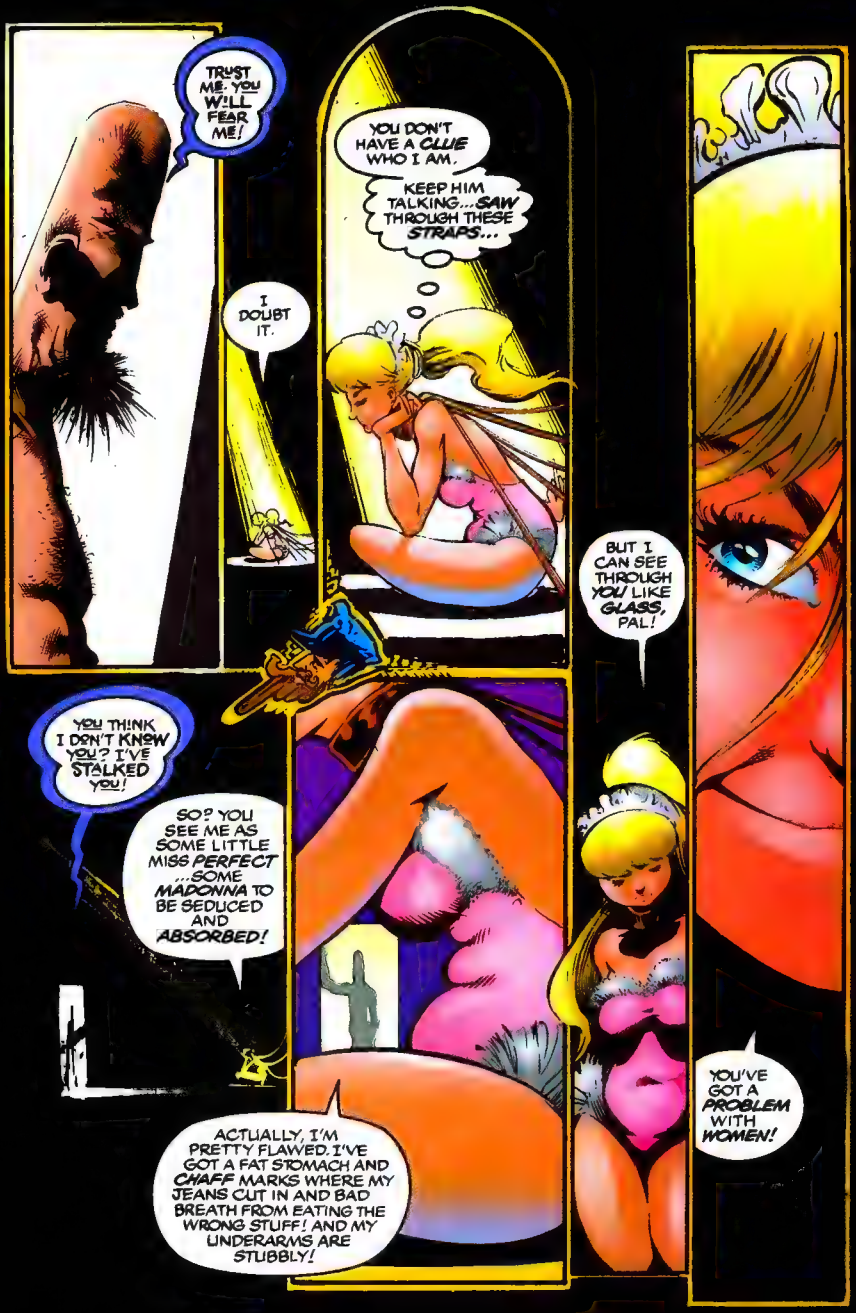
I GUESS HE'S THE SORT OF GUY THINGS HAPPEN TO ALL THE TIME.
YAAAAAA!
TOO... MANY... CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALL...
BLACKING OUT... LOST TOO MUCH BLOOD... PAIN... HAVE TO FIND... JULIA...
GOTTA DATE WITH AN ANGEL...
AH-HA!
CRUNCH!
THERE!
AND THAT SHOULD COVER YOU NICELY.
AFTER ALL, WE DON'T WANT THE LOCALS SEEING GRANNIES CLIPPED TO TRASH BINS BY THEIR TEETH...


ESCAPED!
IT FEELS GOOD TO RUN AND LEAP AGAIN!
TO FEEL THE SOFT LOAM UNDER MY HEELS!
TO KNOW THAT I AM KING IN THIS SAVAGE PLACE ...BUT EVEN A KING MUST HAVE HIS JUNGLE QUEEN!
IF I CAN JUST FIND HER, THEN EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT...
BAD DOLL.
THERE SHE IS...BUT CHANGED...
EVEN HER VOICE IS DIFFERENT.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER?
THIS IS A BAD DOLL. IT KEEPS TELLING ME THINGS I DON'T WANT TO HEAR!
AND IF THIS BAD DOLL DOESN'T SHUT UP, I'M GOING TO BRUSH ITS HAIR RIGHT OUT!


ELSEWHERE, ON THE PASTEL, DECAYING, ART DECO SIDE OF TOWN...
I RAN INTO YOUR FRIEND MAXX TODAY, JULIE.
HE STILL HASN'T GOT A CLUE THAT YOU'RE THE KEY TO ALL THIS. HE THINKS HE'S SOME KIND OF SUPERHERO ON THIS WORLD. CAN YOU IMAGINE?
I KILLED HIM, OF COURSE. SHOT HIM AND LOCKED HIM IN A DUMPSTER WITH A HANDFUL OF THE DARK ISES. THEY TURN MEAT-EATERS WHEN YOU BRING THEM OVER. DID YOU KNOW THAT?
POP
POP
POP
AHHH... LIFE IS GRRD!

THE !SMS ARE PRETTY !NTERES!NG...
SPLAT
D!D YOU KNOW THAT TO HUMANS THEY APPEAR AS WHATEVER YOU DRESS THEM AS?
THAT'S WHY I SET UP SHOP !N TH!S OLD COST!ME WAREHOUSE... PRETTY CLEVER, EH?
OF COURSE, THE BULLDOG JAR RUBBER FACTORY UPSTA!RS ST!LL SMELLS OF DECAY!NG RUBBER...
BUT I TH!NK THAT JUST ADDS TO THE AMBIENCE, DON'T YOU?
NOT THAT YOU'RE !N ANY POS!T!ON TO COMPLAIN...
!N FACT, I CAN DO ANYTH!NG TO YOU I WANT...


Oh, GAWWWD!
LET ME GUESS! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DRESSED AS EVERY CHEERLEADER, PROM QUEEN AND CIRCUS ACROBAT WHO EVER TURNED YOU DOWN FOR A DATE!
AND AS I BEG AND WHIMPER YOU FINALLY ACHIEVE SOME SORT OF TAWDRY SEXUAL REVENGE?
WELL, SO MUCH FOR THAT PLAN!
MEEP! MEEP!
IF ALL THIS BAROQUE POSTURING IS SUPPOSED TO BE THREATENING ME, IT'S PRETTY LAME-O.
I MEAN, YOU CAN KILL ME, SURE...
SO CAN EVERY CRACKHEAD ON MY BLOCK...BUT YOU SURE AREN'T SCARING ME!
A TOOTH... FROM ONE OF THOSE LITTLE MONSTERS HE KEEPS AROUND... MUST BE SHARP!
SHUT UP!
I'M TRYING TO THINK!
SMACK
SMACK
SMASH
SMASH
NOW WHERE WAS I?
OH, YES. PLAN TWO!


TRUST ME. YOU WILL FEAR ME!
I DOUBT IT.
YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHO I AM.
KEEP HIM TALKING...SAW THROUGH THESE STRAPS...
BUT I CAN SEE THROUGH YOU LIKE GLASS, PAL!
YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH WOMEN!
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW YOU? I'VE STALKED YOU!
SO? YOU SEE ME AS SOME LITTLE MISS PERFECT ...SOME MADONNA TO BE SEDUCED AND ABSORBED!
ACTUALLY, I'M PRETTY FLAWED. I'VE GOT A FAT STOMACH AND CHAFF MARKS WHERE MY JEANS CUT IN AND BAD BREATH FROM EATING THE WRONG STUFF! AND MY UNDERARMS ARE STUBBLY!

HOW PERCEPTIVE! DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT WHEN I KIDNAPPED YOU... OR WHEN I TIED YOU UP WITH LEATHER STRAPS?
OF COURSE I'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH WOMEN!
EVERYONE HAS A PROBLEM WITH WOMEN... BECAUSE WOMEN TAUNT AND TEASE! BECAUSE THEY ARE ATTRACTIVE AND THEN THEY PUNISH YOU FOR BEING ATTRACTED!
DO YOU DENY IT? AFTER ALL, I'M NOT THE ONE WHO WEARS UNDERWEAR OUTSIDE HER CLOTHES!

YOU CLAIM TO BE A "PRO-SEX FEMINIST"! YOU QUOTE CAMILLE PAGLIA... ENDLESSLY, I MIGHT ADD.
BUT WOULD A FEMINIST OF ANY STRIPE BE SO DELIBERATELY RISK-TAKING? OR ARE YOU ONLY A FEMINIST WHEN IT SUITS YOU?
YOU DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE, SET UP THIS "FREE-LANCE SOCIAL WORK" OF YOURS, STARTED BAILING PEOPLE OUT OF JAIL, TRYING TO REFORM THEM...
YOU'RE NEARLY BROKE, SURROUNDED BY DANGEROUS/DESPERATE MEN... AND LOOK WHERE IT'S GOTTEN YOU!
SO THIS IS *MY* FAULT?
YOU *BROKE* INTO *MY LOCKED* HOUSE AND *KIDNAPPED* ME! THIS HAS *NOTHING* TO DO WITH THE *CLOTHES* I WEAR!
THIS HAS TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT YOU'RE *TWISTED* AS A CORKSCREW, AND LOOKING TO FIND SOMEONE... WOMEN, FEMINISM, PAGLIA, ME... TO BLAME IT ON!

SURE I TEST THE LIMITS...SO WHAT? QUIT WHINING LIKE A BROKEN DOLL AND GET ON WITH IT!
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT? I CAN TELL YOU THINGS, JULIE WINTERS, THINGS YOU'VE TRIED TO FORGET.
THINGS ABOUT ME, YOURSELF...EVEN THE MAXX. THIS WHOLE ELABORATE FICTION YOU'VE BUILT UP TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE TRUTH.
THIS DOLL IS TELLING ME THINGS I DON'T WANT TO HEAR! AND IF IT DOESN'T SHUT UP...
DO YOU REMEMBER SPIRIT ANIMALS, JULIE? DO YOU REMEMBER...?
...I'M GONNA BRUSH ITS HEAD RIGHT OFF!
...GETTING YOUR OWN SPIRIT ANIMAL? DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU WERE? WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE?
AND WHAT THE ANIMAL'S NAME WAS?
IF THIS DOLL DOESN'T SHUT UP...!

...I'M GONNA BRUSH AND BRUSH AND BRUSH...
YOU WERE NEVER ABLE TO ACCEPT THE OTHER PLANE, JULIE... NEVER ABLE TO REVEL IN IT LIKE I AM... INSTEAD YOU HIDE IN THIS FANTASY! REMEMBER, JULIE? IT'S...
UNTIL I BRUSH OFF IT'S...
...ALL IN YOUR...

...HEAD.

DEAD.
I AWOKE FROM THE DAYDREAM OF THE WILD PLACE AND TEETH WERE AT MY THROAT!
SO I AWOKE AND SLEW. BUT JULIE IS STILL KIDNAPPED AND THE JUNGLE QUEEN IS INSANE!
I DIDN'T PROTECT EITHER OF THEM. I FAILED.
I WISH IT WAS TIME FOR CHEERS, BUT IT'S NOT. IT'S TIME FOR VENGEANCE!
NEXT MONTH
JUNGLE FLOWERS GROWN IN BLOOD!